

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 14, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

On March 25, 2022, the Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) at the Department of Justice (DOJ) announced the appointment of 25 new Immigration Judges (IJs).¹ We write today with deep concern regarding these individuals' ability to enforce our immigration laws, specifically Judge Carmen Maria Rey Caldas.

IJs are responsible for deciding cases of illegal immigrants in various types of removal proceedings, based on their interpretation of U.S. immigration law. Yet, your administration has appointed *at least* one IJ who has consistently and publicly expressed contempt for immigration enforcement and complete disregard for the role of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the federal law enforcement agency assigned to protect the United States from border crime and illegal immigration that threaten national security and public safety.

In May 2019, Judge Rey Caldas tweeted, "Every day, thousands of New Yorkers are fighting back against the Trump Admin, as they try to crush immigrants with the full force of the federal government. As a NY'er, @NYCmayor needs to stand with us, and NOT increase NYC's cooperation with ICE #not1more."² Appointing a judge who has encouraged jurisdictions not to comply with a federal law enforcement agency is a disgrace. Her decisions will undoubtedly impact the safety of communities across our country, as violent felons, rapists, and murderers are included among the 1.2 million final removal orders in the United States.³

Judge Rey Caldas has even gone as far as to degrade ICE officers in a television appearance. In August 2019, Judge Rey Caldas said regarding ICE officers, "These are just guys who are walking around with guns calling themselves law enforcement."⁴ By definition, ICE is a federal

¹ Communications and Legislative Affairs Division, *EOIR Announces 25 New Immigration Judges*, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (Mar. 25, 2022), <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/1487036/download>

² Jon Feere, TWITTER (Mar. 26, 2022), <https://twitter.com/JonFeere/status/1507788544449859586>

³ Ronn Blitzer, *Mayorkas says not all 1.2M illegal immigrants with final removal orders should be deported*, FOX NEWS (Nov. 16, 2021), <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/mayorkas-senate-hearing-migrant-response-new-border-numbers>

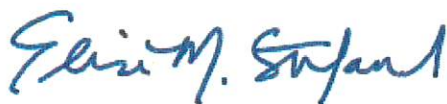
⁴ *Immigrant Communities on Edge After ICE Raids*, SPECTRUM NEWS (Aug. 9, 2019), <https://www.nyl.com/nyc/all-boroughs/inside-city-hall/2019/08/10/after-ice-raids-mississippi-immigrant-communities-on-edge>

law enforcement agency under the Department of Homeland Security. ICE officers are respected, brave individuals, who spend several months preparing to serve our country. This statement should have been an automatic disqualifier for appointing her to an immigration court.

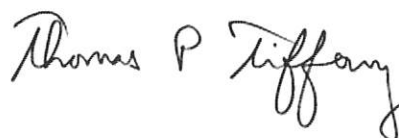
Further, in January 2020, Judge Rey Caldas retweeted a post that said immigration enforcement is “pointless,” and said the post was “well said.”⁵ In the worst border crisis in America’s history, you appointed a judge who believes immigration enforcement is *pointless*. As Judge Rey Caldas should know, laws are useless without enforcement. Her blatant disregard for the serious role she will play in removal proceedings concerns us for both national security and public safety reasons, and it also calls into question Judge Rey Caldas’ understanding of our country’s immigration laws.

Therefore, we urge you to remove Judge Rey Caldas from her position on the Stewart Immigration Court immediately. As we face the worst border crisis in history, it is essential that the IJs at our border are willing to uphold our country’s immigration laws.

Sincerely,



Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress



Thomas P. Tiffany
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress

⁵ *Id.* at 2.



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



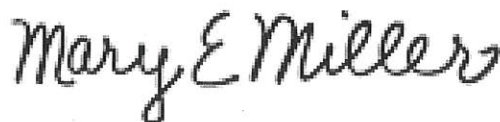
Ken Buck
Member of Congress



W. Greg Steube
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



Madison Cawthorn
Member of Congress



Andrew R. Garbarino
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



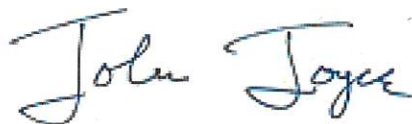
Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
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Debbie Lesko
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Bill Posey
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Vicky Hartzler
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Chris Jacobs
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Glenn Grothman
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Dan Meuser
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Richard Hudson
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